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UCAPAWA NEWS

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Vol. I—No. 8 300 MAY-JUNE, 1940 10¢ a Copy or 5¢ in Bulk

SOUTH MEETS EAST: Mrs. Owen H. Whitfield, director, Womens Auxiliaries, Missouri Agricultural Workers Union, center, marching with New York UCAPAWA members in May Day parade for peace, jobs and security.

New Date Pact Ups Pay 12%

BROOKLYN, N. Y., June 23—Eight hundred UCAPAWA members, employed at the Hills Bros. date packing plant here, are getting a 12 per cent pay boost, a closed shop, one week's paid vacation, improved grievance machinery, and many other improvements in the contract just renewed by Local 207 after a one day strike.

As finally worked out, the new pact brings the following important gains to the workers:

1. Foremen and foreladies not to do production work.
2. A one year instead of a two-year contract.
3. Protection against pay cuts in transfers.
4. Strict seniority.
5. Closed shop and improved grievance setup.
6. Vacations with pay for regular workers.

The contract has been hailed in the East as one of the best in the entire date industry. Local 207's negotiating committee was headed by Pres. Anna O'Brien, with District President Leif Dahl representing the International.

Spanish Bulletin

Louise Moreno, director of the Spanish Department has been transferred to Los Angeles, and the Spanish paper NOTICIAS DE LA UCAPAWA, the Spanish Bulletin, and correspondence in Spanish will hereafter be conducted from there.

All correspondence dealing with these things should be sent to Sister Moreno at 303 Currier Building, Los Angeles, California.

2500 at Missouri Meeting

Two thousand five hundred UCAPAWA sharecroppers and farm laborers convened at Poplar Bluff, Missouri, on June 9th in the largest state convention and mass meeting of its kind ever held in the South.

Meeting in the open air on land owned by the sharecropper's UCAPAWA camp, the convention adopted a program calling upon the Federal government to render greater assistance to agricultural workers of the South, and laid plans for an organization campaign in Missouri to triple the present membership of the union.

The usual trouble from the landlords and police materialized but did not succeed in breaking up the meeting. The police of Jefferson County assisted by the State Highway Patrol completely blocked the highway at Sikeston and began turning back delegates and union members. After one bus, two trucks and 40 cars loaded with members had been turned back, the union leaders finally succeeded in getting the highway opened, after which there was no more trouble in getting to the camp.

900 Saved

Reverend Owen H. Whitfield, leader of the Missouri Agricultural Workers Council, in his annual report, stated

(Continued on page 16)

CIO Position on Natl. Defense

WASHINGTON, June 8—The following is the full text of the "Declaration of the Executive Board of the CIO on National Defense,"

At the outset let us state most unequivocally that we are, and always shall be, unalterably opposed to any movement or activity of subversive character, Trojan horses, or Fifth Columns, which are aimed against our nation and government, or the basic free and democratic institutions upon which our Republic has been founded.

The Congress of Industrial Organizations is the labor movement in our first line of defense—the mass producing industries of mines, mills, factories and workshops. By the strength and discipline of our organizations, the affiliates of the Congress of Industrial Organizations have substituted industrial peace and stability for industrial warfare, in these first lines of defense.

Offer Cooperation

We are prepared to lend practical, wholesome and feasible cooperation in any undertaking to protect this nation and prepare for national defense.

The ideals and objectives of the Congress of Industrial Organizations are an essential part of national policy. They are inherent in our democratic society.

Throughout any national emergency, labor's rights, as embodied in the National Labor Relations Act, the Wage and Hour Act, the Walsh-Healey Act, the Guffey Coal Stabilization Act, the Social Security Act and other legislation must be preserved.

These rights are:

1. The right of wage earners to organize into unions of their own choosing.
2. The right to organize wage earners to bargain collectively with their employers.
3. The right of wage earners to freedom of speech, assembly, action and worship.

This declaration of labor's rights is designed to stabilize industrial relations and promote industrial peace. It does not contemplate industrial strife. It seeks to improve the relationship between wage earners and their employers; to increase the productive efficiency of industry; to maintain labor's existing wage and hour

(Continued on page 3)

Lewis Calls for No War; Demands Negro Rights

PHILADELPHIA, June 18—John L. Lewis told delegates to the convention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People that "involvement or intervention in the European War is repugnant to every healthy-minded American and that the voters will defeat at the polls those who seek to drag the United States into the slaughter."

"All the labor and liberal organizations with which I am identified," said the CIO leader, "stand unalterably for adequate defense of the nation and its democratic institutions, and against involvement in European war and against those who advocate such involvement."

"Those who love to fulminate against the menace of fifth columns and trojan horses should thus stop to consider that the most menacing condition in American national life is the inadequate diet and the empty stomachs of one half of the population," said Lewis.

Negro Needs

The needs of no group in the nation are greater than those of the Negro people.

Their incomes as a group are the lowest.

Their living conditions are the poorest.

Their unemployment is the highest.

The discrimination against them is the worst.

Most of the Negroes are wage earners and their salvation lies in the same measures as does that of labor as a whole.

Two great essential rights guarantee the advance of labor and of the Negro in a democracy.

The first is the right to organize into unions as workers.

The second is the right of political expression free and unhampered.

Equal economic opportunity will come to the Negro workers only when they are organized industrially, side by side with all other workers.

In the CIO all workers have equality of opportunity. There is no discrimination in wage rights between any of the workers. They have equal rights to all others within the organization, and they must be paid equal wages for doing equal work. The United Mine Workers brought that principle home to the thousands of Negro mine workers in the South, when in 1933 it established equal rights for white and Negro workers in the Southern mines.

Many Negroes are leaders of CIO unions and stand high up in the ranks of the leaders of organized labor. They lead not unions of Negroes alone, but unions of all workers, no matter what their color.

Equal economic opportunity for Negroes under organized labor is the first step toward their rightful place in the Sun for the Negro people.

The CIO Program

The right to vote establishes the rightful place of every group in our nation. That is why the Negroes as well as the millions of other Southern workers must be released from the shackles of the poll tax, so that they can exercise their franchise.

The CIO's program offers to Negroes, as well as to the other people of the nation the basis for a sound program.

A. The CIO is the instrument through which the fight of the workers for the right to bargain collectively is being carried on.

B. The CIO is fighting for the end of the poll tax which destroys the right to vote.

C. The CIO demands the passage of the anti-lynching bill.

D. The CIO calls for the end of unemployment, for adequate security and decent housing and free and equal education. Clearly the CIO program, and that of the welfare of the Negro people, are to all intents and purposes practically the same. The way to attain such a program is by common action, and that common action labor freely offers to those who would cooperate with it to the same ends.

The President's Page

Our Union, the War And National Defense

The CIO Executive Board meeting on June 4 adopted a statement defining our position on the question of the CIO, war, and national defense. Three points of life and death concern to all American labor stand out in that statement:

NO SUPPORT TO IMPERIALIST WAR

(1) It unequivocally and flatly takes the position that we want no part of Europe's present death struggle over spoils of conquest as between the Allies and the Fascists; we are opposed to being made suckers for the benefit of the Allies as in the last war and we are opposed to the attempts of the fascists to create a new world order of European or world domination in which they take the place of the Allies in exploiting the workers and colonial peoples throughout the world.

NO SUPPORT TO AMERICAN "JINGO" COLUMNISTS

(2) The CIO statement clearly backs up a real program of national defense and offers cooperation on the basis of measures which protect the American peoples' interests; first of all, this means protecting labors rights, labors social gains. Labor and the protection of its rights is viewed in the statement as America's first line of defense; it means no sell-out of American labor by our Tories and our army generals such as Chamberlain and the English ruling class put over on Czechoslovakia and Spain.

It means no sellout of American labor and the peoples interests such as the French government and their Army generals put over on the French people which has resulted in the present catastrophe facing the French workers.

It means no support to a defense program which threatens to tear down workers' standards, to destroy existing social legislation, to shove anti-labor and anti-alien legislation down our throats under the pretext of defense; it means we are not to become a sucker to further the interests of American Tories and American dollar diplomacy at the expense of labor any more than we should become suckers to pull Allied chestnuts out of the fire.

DEFEND AMERICAN LABOR INTERESTS

(3) The CIO statement on defense and its statement on legislation outlines a concrete program of how to defend America by defending American institutions which have made our progress possible, by correcting the widespread poverty and suffering of one-third of our population through measures to relieve unemployment, to raise low income, to remove discrimination against Negroes, to stop anti-alien measures, to remove tax and voting discriminations; and to organize and unionize the many millions of workers yet unorganized.

Ten million organized workers in the CIO will be our best guarantee against any pro-war government attempting to draw us into a European squabble!

Ten million workers unionized and educated to fight for their own interests will be our best guarantee against our own reactionary press, Tory Trojan horses, "Jingo" Columnists, and domestic Chamberlains who want to use the war hysteria of defending America as a smoke-screen behind which they try to steal our gains and get American workers to accept their policies of dying for dollar diplomacy.

PRES. DONALD HENDERSON

CIO Policy On Defense

(Continued from page 2)

standards, and to improve these standards with changing economic conditions.

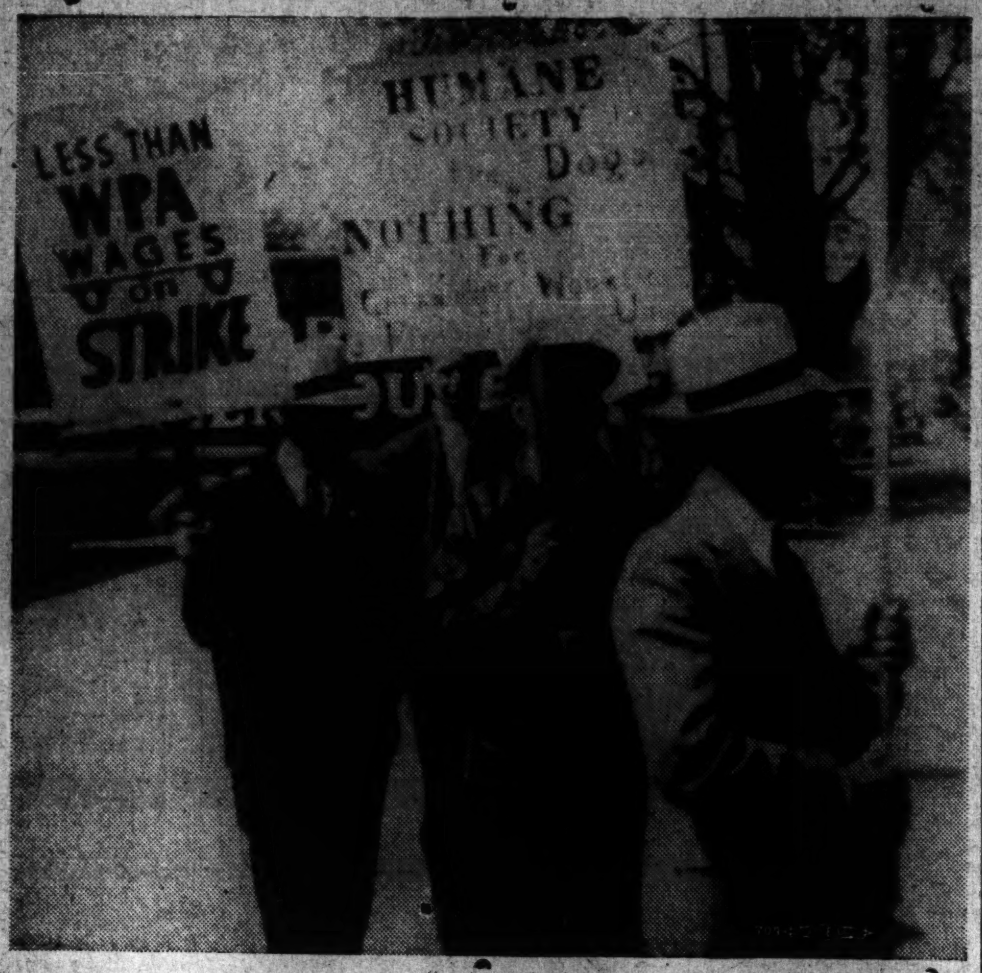
Any national defense program must contemplate this kind of cooperation.

Unemployment

It is imperative for the national welfare that steps be taken to end unemployment.

Our industrial unions constitute a great reservoir of productive, technical and administrative skill and resourcefulness. The brains of labor should be utilized to serve the nation in its national defense undertaking. Organized labor must be given adequate representation on boards, agencies, administrative bodies and policy-making groups concerned with the execution and administration of any national defense program.

We offer this program in a sincere endeavor to make our contribution toward achieving the goal which is in the heart of every true American—to assure the security of our nation, to preserve the peace for our people, and not to become involved in the present horrible war raging in Europe.



LESS THAN WPA wages for CIO workers at the Browne Greenhouse in Detroit brought these UCAPAWA workers out on the picket line.

Hothouse Workers Strike Against Sweatshop Wages

DETROIT, June 22—The more than 80 employees of the Browne Greenhouse, largest in Michigan, have gone on strike after the management refused to bargain in good faith on the question of improving the sweatshop conditions in that establishment, Organizer Harold Lane of the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers said today.

The employes are members of UCAPAWA Local 58, and the strike is 100 per cent effective, Lane said.

The strike was caused by the employer's refusal to do anything about the 20c to 25c an hour wages he pays and the 50 to 60 hour week which his employes work.

When organization first started, the proprietor discharged two men, but rehired them when he was confronted with a union committee.

At that time he also agreed to negotiate on wages, hours and other conditions, but he has failed to come through on that promise.

Meantime, the morale of the strikers is high, Lane announced. A strike kitchen has been set up in a restaurant near the greenhouse and the UAW-CIO women's auxiliary has pitched in to do their usually good job of seeing that strikers are well-fed.

Under these conditions, it is expected that the strikers can continue their strike indefinitely.

The Price of War

The last World War:

Total killed	8,548,000
Total wounded	21,210,000

America entered the war in April, 1917. The people paid the following price:

Killed	126,000
Wounded	234,300

War Profits

The war brought huge profits to a minority of bankers and industrialists, while it reduced the masses to deeper poverty and economic insecurity.

1917—18,000 new millionaires were created by the war.

1917—69 Wall Street Corporations increased their profits by 300 per cent during this year.

1917—Food prices of daily necessities rose from 50 to 100 per cent.

COST OF WAR: 350 billion dollars. The people paid it. The bankers profited from it.

If Spent for Peaceful Purposes:

Five acres of land and a $3,500 house for every family in the U.S., France, Canada, England, Germany, Russia, and Australia.

(Continued on page 16)

UCAPAWA NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing & Allied Workers of America, Affiliated with Congress of Industrial Organizations

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Sports News

Various Locals throughout the country are sending in news of sport activities.

Local 207 has a completely outfitted baseball team which recently took the New York Department of Sanitation team to town.

Local 297 in Toledo has a newly organized ball team which reports two defeats out of two tries but expects to come out from under in the next game.

Locals in Northeastern Colorado are organizing ball teams and expect to establish a UCAPAWA League for that State. District Vice-President Henry Garcia has been appointed District Sports Director in charge of this program.

UCAPAWA NEWS asks all such local sports clubs, groups and teams to send in news of activity and especially pictures of uniformed teams.

Van Camp Signs Improved Pact With UCAPAWA

SAN DIEGO, Cal.—The large tuna canning plant of the Van Camp Sea Food Co. here has just signed a new agreement with UCAPAWA Local 64 which provides for a number of improvements.

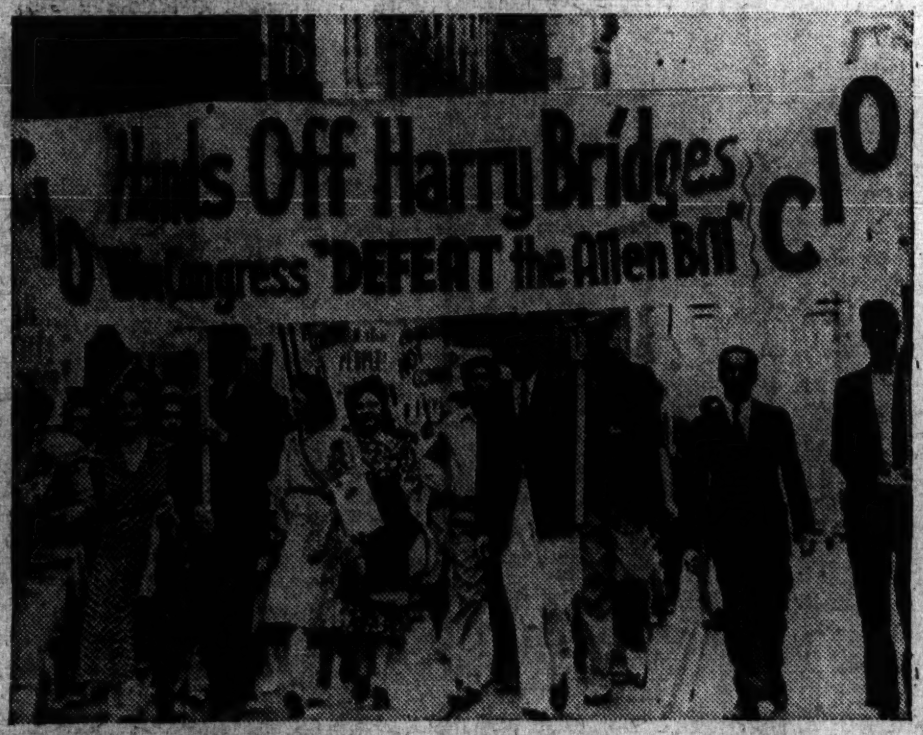
The new agreement grants the union a definite union shop, a straight eight hour day—which is the first time any company in the industry has made this concession—overtime provisions, seniority, and improved working conditions.

Wage rates in the new agreement are as follows:

	Hourly rates	Weekly rates
Sealing machine operator		$37.50
Sealing machine (die changer)	$ .65	
Inspectors for tuna cleaning	.60	
Label machine operators	.70	
Tuna butchers	.90	
Tuna cooker operators	.80	
Cooker operator helpers	.65	
Retort operators	.85	
Retort helpers	.65	
Hoist men	.75	
Oil men	.60	
Maintenance men	.85	
Assistant mechanics	.65	
Engineers-boiler room		37.50
Cleaners-fish	.55	
Packers-fish	.55	
Punch girls	.60	
General employees (male)	.60	
General employees (female)	.55	
Weighmen		35.00
Watchmen	.60	
Janitors	.60	

Brother Salazar and Sister Wood who signed the agreement for the union reported that the membership is well satisfied with the gains made this year.

Another tuna cannery, the Sun Harbor Packing Corporation, is now being organized by the local and an NLRB election between the AFL, which is now in the plant, and Local 64 is expected soon.



ON THE MARCH: In Los Angeles, CIO heads parade through downtown streets to fight passage of a bill in Congress to deport Pres. Harry Bridges of the CIO Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union.

Notice California Locals

The published hearings of the La-Follette Committee to investigate violations of civil liberties dealing with agricultural disputes in California are now available. The Committee has supplied most of the public libraries in those areas of California which it investigated with copies of the hearings and workers who are interested may read them there.

SEND IN NEWS!

Readers are urged to send in stories of their Local activities. Pictures of officers, meetings and activities are also welcomed.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROCESSING

"Organize Campbell Soup" Aim of Camden CIO

CAMDEN, N. J.—"Organize Campbell Soup," is the cry spreading through the Camden organized labor movement. "To Organize Campbell's Is to Organize Camden," is another widespread slogan passing from mouth to mouth. In every CIO hall in the city placards can be seen advising unionists to tell their friends and relatives who work in Campbell's to join UCAPAWA, Local 80.

Any sunny day, around noontime while workers are having their lunch, Local 80's sound truck playing popular music makes the rounds. On each side of the truck are large signs calling on Campbell workers to organize for better working conditions. Very often a local organizer or trade union official addresses the workers and appeals to them to join Local 80.

Charges Filed

Local 80 has charges against the Campbell Company for fostering and dominating a company union, under the guise of an Employes Representation plan. Local 80 is confident that the company union will soon be outlawed and ruled out of existence by the NLRB.

When that happens, the local will petition for sole collective bargaining rights and if an election is necessary, it would at that time be prepared to come out of such a Labor Board election with an overwhelming victory.

The union is meeting with unrelenting resistence from the company. No tactics to discourage organization are too low for the company to use. They are employing every imaginable means to undermine Local 80 and prevent workers from joining.

The company, through the athletic association and company union, is conducting all sorts of social functions to distract the minds of workers from CIO organization. The company is even blasting away with music in the cafeteria to keep the workers from talking union.

Local 80 has moved into bigger headquarters, a three story building, meeting halls and offices, and held a well attended house warming party on June 15.

Local 186 Holds Lines In Strike

The American Preserve workers in Philadelphia are holding their lines solidly after having been on strike for over two months. The company forced the strike when it refused to consider any of the contract revisions proposed by Local 186 during negotiations.

Union demands are wage increases to establish a minimum of 75 cents per hour for all workers, two weeks vacation with pay, 10 holidays with pay, full pay in case of sickness for two weeks and half pay for the next four weeks, closed shop, check off and guaranteeing all workers their jobs back in case the United States enters war and members serve with the government forces.

The company flatly refused to consider these proposals and instead tried to foist upon the union a "speed up" or "efficiency" system, which the union voted down.

This plant normally employs 160 men and is one of the larger preserve plants in the country. The strike is 100 per cent solid and the local fully expects that the company will shortly negotiate an acceptable contract.

Members of the American Preserve negotiating committee are Walter Sammler, John Bardsley, Elmer Young, Raymond Brown, Bob Hean, Al Jervis and Bill Robbins.

CIO Armour Workers Debate NLRB Poll

BLOOMER, Wis.—After a preliminary discussion with the management of Armour and Co. milk condensery plant here, the question of a National Labor Board election was referred to Armour headquarters in Chicago. In eight previous Armour elections, PWOC has had to go through NLRB hearings which necessitated delays. The management here indicates that they will not contest an election on the bargaining unit demanded by Local 24, United Condensery Workers.

However, there are indications that a hook-up with Armour Chicago office and the AFL teamsters union may exist. The AFL teamsters union state organizer at Milwaukee has demanded that they be given a place on the ballot. This, despite the fact that they have no members paying dues at this Armour plant for nearly two years. All their former members are in the CIO now.

Local 24 has not as yet decided whether to consent to having the AFL on the NLRB ballot. Should the Armour Co. consent to an election, we may allow the Teamsters Union a place on the election ballot in order to expedite the election, and to demonstrate how decisively we can beat this reactionary AFL officialdom.

Organization of other Armour plants in the State as well as other dairy plants, depends upon Local 24 obtaining bargaining rights and an agreement embodying higher wages and vacations here. The UCAPAWA boys here know they have a tough customer to fight, and are determined to stick and win.

UCAPAWA Fights Wage Hour Chiselers

Wage Hour Hearings Set For July 1

A hearing on applications for the partial exemption from the hours provision of the Fair Labor Standards Act, of the handling, packing, storing, preparing in their raw or natural state or canning of fresh fruits and vegetables as industries of a seasonal nature was set today by Colonel Philip B. Fleming, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, for 10 a.m., July 1, at the Hotel Raleigh, before Merle D. Vincent, Director of the Hearings Branch of the Division.

These industries already have a 14 work weeks overtime exemption, under Section 7 (c) of the Act. The hearing will be to determine whether the industries are entitled to another exemption under Section 7 (b) (3). This exemption would give these employers, in addition to the 14 work weeks exemption they now enjoy, a second 14 work weeks exemption with freedom of overtime during the latter period up to 12 hours per day and 56 hours per week. This does not affect the requirement to pay at least 30 cents an hour.

Information will be sought at the hearing upon the following facts, among others: (1) length of operating season in weeks for each commodity for past several seasons; (2) length of operating season in weeks, in plants operating on more than one commodity for past several seasons and (3) proportion of total volume of all commodities handled, packed, stored or canned during 14-week period or periods of maximum operation during past several seasons.

Pay Ordered For Rest Periods

The Wage Hour Administration has recently ruled that all rest periods for workers covered by the Act which last for 20 minutes or less must be paid for by the employer. This ruling went into effect April 1, 1940.

This ruling is important because in many shops rest periods of 10 minutes are frequently deducted from the workers pay.

Packers Demand for Exemptions Met by Union Counter Drive

Attempts of the fresh fruit and vegetable packers and canners to exempt additional tens of thousands of workers from the Wage-Hour Act were vigorously attacked by UCAPAWA representatives in three public hearings recently held in Washington, D. C.

Michael Howard testified at the first hearing where representatives from the citrus packing industry from all parts of the country tried to convince the administration that the present coverage of the act over their employes was unjust and unwarranted. Howard's testimony was so effective that Ivan McDaniels, representing the citrus interests of California took the floor and tried to shout him down. But Howard stood his ground and McDaniels came off second best.

The two other hearings, dealing with fresh fruit and vegetable packing and canning occupied an entire week. Industry representatives from all parts of the country flew in by airplane to petition the government to exempt their workers. At these two hearings the only labor representatives present were from UCAPAWA and in two appearances, Lief Dahl blasted the claims of the employers sky high and instead of exempting more workers, demanded that many of the workers now exempt be included.

Although no definite information on the decision of the administration is yet available, it is expected that the effort and enormous expense of the packers and canners to get the "area of production" clause redefined will come to naught because of the counter testimony of UCAPAWA.

Andrew Sets New 'Area' Definition

Administrator Elmer F. Andrews announced a redefinition of the much disputed "Area of Production" phrase of the Fair Labor Standards Act. The new definition exempts from the wage and hour provisions of the Act employees engaged in the canning, packing and storing of fresh fruits and vegetables who are **employed in establishments situated in the open country or in towns of less than 2,500 and which draw all their products from within a radius of ten miles.**

In issuing the Regulation, the Administrator said: "There are approximately 325,000 employes engaged in the fresh fruits and vegetables industry. The employers generally have been demanding a definition of 'area of production' which will be so broad as to exempt practically all the employes in the industry. Labor, on the other hand, urges a definition so narrow in scope as virtually to exempt no one.

"Upon the basis of the consideration which I have given both to the record made at the hearing before me and to the language and intent of Section 13 (a) (10), the only sound definition which the Act and the facts permit me to issue is one that requires a canning plant or packing house to draw its products from the immediate producing area and to be located in the open country or in a rural town of small population. Accordingly, the amendment to the regulations just issued **exempts employees engaged in the canning, packing and storing of fresh fruits and vegetables who are employed in establishments situated in the open country or in towns of less than 2,500 and which draw all their products from within a radius of ten miles."**

Negros Vote In East Texas Elections

In a number of East Texas school districts Negro members of the union are voting for the first time this year. The power of the ballot is being brought home to these members when school trustees come around to their homes and make promises in return for a vote.

The union is determined to help rid East Texas school districts of a form of racketeering that has been prevalent there for years. White trustees over colored schools demand part of the teachers salary in a kickback in return for giving them jobs. Telling the clean districts from the unclean is easy. Where racketeering takes place the teachers are afraid to open their mouths on any issue dealing with Negro rights. In clean districts the teachers are relatively free.

Organizer Koger reports that chiseling on soil conservation checks by landlords is gradually diminishing in those areas where strong locals function. However it is still a common practice in unorganized areas for landlords to forge the tenant's or sharecropper's signature to government checks and then either lie to the worker or brow beat him into submitting to this thievery.

Correction

Donations from Locals and members to UCAPAWA's most famous labor prisoner, Chris Clarich serving 20 years in a Texas prison, should be sent direct to Brother Clarich's wife and not to him. Mrs. Christopher Clarich's address is 321 Seventeenth Street, Corpus Christi, Texas.

FOR JOBS AND PEACE NOT WAR AND DEATH

By L. WILLIAMS

WIDENER, Ark.—I am in receipt of the report of the Third National Negro Congress where so many good things were done by President John L. Lewis and Brother Whitfield. The people are in war overseas and they want us to go over too. It seems we ought first to get the moat out of the eyes of our own people before trying to get the beams out of the eyes of the people overseas.

We want lynching stopped, we want the anti-poll tax bill passed, we want the unAmerican activities of the KKK stopped, we want the war against labor unions stopped and an investigation of the Natchez fire where 200 poor Negroes were killed.

The landlords around here are taking a dollar from the workers and pretending to send it across the sea to help the Red Cross. And all our workers are in debt. They want to help everybody across the sea and let their own people suffer.

We Want Jobs

Oh what a shame! Now the big bugs want the poor people to go to war. We don't want a war. We get nothing but death and suffering from war. What we want is for the young people here to get jobs and old people to get pensions.

Now on this overplush cotton the government is going to give the tenant for bed tick. The landlords are signing the application blanks showing the tenant got $50 per bale for cotton. They allow the tenant 7½ and 8 cents per pound, no compress tickets and no sales tickets. And some of the landlords are charging $2 for the bed tick!

So you see the deal we sharecroppers are getting in the South. Then they talk about fighting across the sea to protect these liberties and our high living standard. We want peace and the Wage Hour Bill to apply to farm labor because we are getting only $1 a day for men and 75 cents for women for 12 hours work. Thank God for the UCAPAWA Union in the CIO.

East Texas Elects New Officers

At the last meeting of the Eastern Texas UCAPAWA Council new officers were elected and plans made for an energetic organizing campaign during the next two months. Reports of delegates showed that several locals were already receiving new members and that three new locals are now in the process of formation.

Newly elected officers are H. C. Thompson, president; Calvin Pegues, treasurer, Mollie Johnson, secretary and Harold Montgomery, vice-president.

Brother Vernon G. Olson, a recent graduate of Commonwealth College, the well-known workers school in Arkansas, was welcomed as an organizer into Eastern Texas.

At a meeting in Easton attended by Brother Olson the role of the STFU was brought out when many CIO members testified that they were promised money if they joined the STFU.

Olson asked: "We all know the STFU leaders were false and phony. The CIO does not promise you a handout but does promise you the protection to organize, to live like human beings, and the right to fight for freedom. Which would you rather have—the STFU money or the CIO program?" There was a moment of silence and then the entire hall of crowded workers voted for the CIO.

Oklahoma CIO Pushes Tenant Loan Program

The UCAPAWA Tenant Farmers Union of Oklahoma is initiating a petition to be signed by 175,000 voters which will place on the State ballot a proposition to make available $50,000,000 for loans to sharecroppers, tenant farmers and day laborers at 3 per cent interest.

Odis Nation, union representative in Oklahoma stated: "This proposition, if adopted, will make farm owners of 130,000 tenants and sharecroppers in the state. These people have been so shamefully betrayed by corporation dominated officials in the state that today they are on the highways headed for California and elsewhere in futile search of a home and work."

Human Erosion

"It is about time someone stopped this human 'erosion' in the Grapes of Wrath country. Governor Phillips is too busy fighting the Cole Bill and the Grand River Dam authority to think about the common people and President Roosevelt's grandiose promises in behalf of the 'submerged one third' have likewise gone up the flue. UCAPAWA is therefore representing the people and we hope to put this proposition over."

Copies of the petition can be obtained from Brother Nationa, General Delivery, Bristow, Okla.

Local 186 Renews Pact

Local 186 recently renewed its agreement with the Clare Food and Relish Company of Philadelphia. 10 per cent increases were given to employes earning less than $20 per week and 5 per cent for employes earning over $20 per week. One week's vacation with pay for all workers was also granted, together with other improvements.

In contrast to the amicable relations with this plant, the Cherry-Levis Company and the Empire Pickling Company have flatly refused to give even small increases and as a result strikes were called.

PEANUT WORKERS GAIN DESPITE SLOW SEASON

Although the slack season has set in the peanut industry, the United Peanut Workers Union here in Suffolk, Va., is rapidly moving ahead.

In the Planters Nut and Chocolate Co., the new contract which was recently signed is now in full swing. This contract which provided for a $50,000 wage increase along with many other benefits to the workers has proven to be a great victory. The membership in Local 232 has increased since the signing of this contract and is continuing to do so.

At the present time negotiations are going on with all the other peanut companies here in Suffolk for renewal of the contracts which have expired. The workers are demonstrating their determination for a better contract with these companies. The local meetings which are being held regularly always pack the hall.

The Peanut Workers Union in recent months has spread in the near by town of Franklin, Va. In the recent election held in the Pretlow Peanut Co. the CIO won a victory by an overwhelming majority. Negotiations are now going on with this company and a contract is expected to be reached in the near future. In the Franklin Peanut Company the workers have responded to the union's call and an NLRB election will be held in a very short while. It is in this company where the union has had to file a complaint of unfair labor practice.

The 'Good Old Days'

The Peanut Workers realize that the owners of the Peanut Industries are fighting to get back the "Old Days" where the workers were compelled to work 10 hours per day and for it received only 40c. In spite of the bitter attempts of the employers to break up the union the workers stand ready now and in the future to fight back any attempts to destroy them.

The Peanut Workers realize that only through organization in the CIO have they ever gotten anything and only through the CIO can they maintain and better their job security, working conditions, and wages.

Ed Peters, President of the Virginia-Maryland Council, has been transferred to Baltimore, Maryland to do organizing work and Brother Paul J. Jarvis is now in charge of UCAPAWA organization for the State of Virginia.

CIO's 7-Point Program for WPA Jobs

WASHINGTON, June 8—Predicting that armaments expenditures will not "substantially fill the need of those who are eligible for WPA," the CIO executive board passed a 7-point resolution for improvement of WPA.

The board endorsed proposals to:

1. Increase WPA jobs to 3,000,000.

2. Eliminate the WPA's 18-month layoff provision.

3. Restore hourly wages to prevailing levels.

4. Increase monthly security wage levels.

5. Eliminate the 25 per cent sponsorship contribution.

6. Restore the federal theatre project.

7. Wipe out "vicious discriminatory clauses" in the present WPA bill.

CIO Wins $15,000,000 Wage Boost at GM

DETROIT, Mich.—The CIO Automobile Wokers Union just signed a contract with General Motors Corp. providing for $15,000,000 wage increases for the coming year. Who said Unionism doesn't pay?

SUGAR

Hawaiian Local Cuts Company Store Prices

Local 76, representing the organized sugar workers of the Hawaiian Islands, reports that its activities have resulted in the reduction of retail prices in company and plantation-owned stores where union members do their trading.

These price reductions came after Organizer Jack Hall had presented a very able statement before officials of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which proved conclusively that sugar workers on the Islands were being grossly underpaid and that the companies could very well pay higher wages for work in the sugar crop.

Brother Hall's statement concluded with the recommendation to Secretary Wallace that wage rates be increased, that time and one half be paid for work over 48 hours a week, end the unfair discrimination between male and female workers, for a differentiation between skilled and unskilled labor, and for the establishment of a seven hour day for all employees who work in and around water continually. The Department of Agriculture in Washington reports that a decision resulting from these hearings will probably be issued the last week in June.

CIO Has 10,000

UCAPAWA Local 76 is one of the rapidly growing CIO Locals in the Islands which now number a membership of over 10,000, and which for the first time in history offer an opportunity for the exploited workers in agriculture, industry and the waterfront to get better wages and join unions without discrimination as to color or creed.

UCAPAWA NEWS offers its greetings to the brothers and sisters in the Hawaiian Islands and requests that you send us more news of your activities.

Mushroom Hearing To Reopen

DENVER, Colo.—The Labor Board hearing on the Great Western Mushroom Company has been ordered reopened because Elmer Vigil, who testified in the first hearing, was forced to move out of a company house right after the hearing. The Intermediate Report issued as a result of the first hearing ordered the Company to rehire Dan Vigil, who was discharged for union activity, with back pay.

Marston 113 Moving Up

By PETER WILDERNESS

MARSTON, MO.—We the members of Local 313 want our sisters and brothers to know that we are still moving forward with our union but we are still being abused by the landlords. You know the big shots hate union members and they try to trap us on every hand. They are cutting us off the WPA. They want us to chop cotton for $1 per day from sunup until sundown. The landlords will never deal right with labor until they have to and that day is coming fast. We are like a tree planted by the water. We will not be moved.

We Know

Local 313 truly knows our enemy. A friend will deal square at all times, but your enemy never does do right or wants to do right by his fellow man. We beg and pray that all union people will stick together as never before. The time is near for our freedom from wage slavery.

The God of the Universe knows that we are right in our struggle for a better way to live in this world. Brothers and sisters, the war is on overseas. Now is the time for labor to demand its rights in America. Long live our union. Together we stand and divided we fall.

Local 158 Cracks Boss' Union

DENVER, Colo.—Local 158, United Cracker Workers, put on two "Beer Busts" in the past month in an effort to get workers out to talk about the union.

The company union at Merchants Biscuit Co. was broken up by Local 158 and now the AFL is entering the picture.

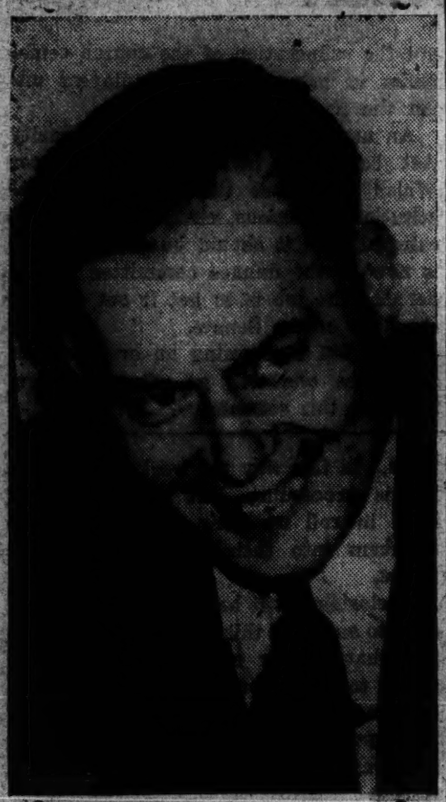
The members of Local 158 are working hard for a majority of the employees and have already shown the value of the CIO through settlement of grievances.

N. Colorado CIO Members Get Contracts

DENVER—So far as is known at this time practically all UCAPAWA members in Northern Colorado got their beet contracts in their own factory district. This is the first time this has been accomplished in several years.

A large number of beet workers came to Colorado from other states. UCAPAWA leaders visited County Commissioners and other government agencies securing support for a program of hiring local labor first.

District 3 secured the cooperation of the Department of Labor Conciliation Service to deal with farmers who refused to sign written contracts. In the cases where members said they would call in the Conciliator, the farmers came to terms.



Pres. Ted Rasmussen of District 2

Local 330 Reports Pay Boosts

INDIO, Calf.—Bob Roberts, organizer of the newly chartered Agricultural Workers Local 330, reports that wage increases have already been secured for its members.

After a long, uphill fight, the local finally got started. One of the most serious problems was the large influx of transients from Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas who have never heard of unions. Once convinced however, these workers are among the best union members.

The dollar and a half to two dollar a day wage scale which formerly prevailed in the valley is slowly being corrected and two fifty to three dollars a day is now being paid by many farmers.

District 2 in Drive For 10,000 New Members

LOS ANGELES, May 13—Ten thousand canning and processing workers in Los Angeles alone will be the concentration point of District Two's summer organizing drive, it was decided in the District convention here this weekend.

Delegates representing most of District 2's 35 locals attended the three-day gathering. Processing and cannery workers, cotton compress workers, and representatives of the packing shed locals discussed their particular problems in Saturday's session, the business meeting was Sunday, and field workers met all day Monday.

Leaders elected to carry out the work of the district for the coming year were: President, Ted Rasmussen; secretary-treasurer, Luke Hinman; field workers director, Luke Hinman; Executive Board, Marie Alvos, O. R. Green, Elmo Henderson, Julian Hicks, and Dixie Tiller. Brother Rasmussen, who has been acting district president since May, 1939, was elected by acclamation, and given a vote of thanks for getting the district on a sound financial basis.

Besides carrying out their regular business, the delegates heard several guest speakers, including Mr. Adams, Imperial Valley grower, and member of the California Farm Adjustment Bureau, Grace McDonald, agricultural research expert, Albert Weintraub, LNPL of Los Angeles County, and Roy Donnelly, Los Angeles CIO Council.

General President Donald Henderson, who has been on the West Coast for several months, attended the convention, and said that the large number of agricultural and cannery workers in District 2 make it one of the most promising areas for UCAPAWA in the country. He said our international organization is so set up that it is the job of the locals and the districts to carry the main burden of organizing, and that the Los Angeles locals are privileged to have the opportunity to bring ten thousand workers into UCAPAWA.

Summarizing his work for the past nine months, acting President Rasmussen said he had spent entirely too much time "on wheels," and asked the convention to set up an organization allowing him to remain in one place long enough to accomplish something. He reported on organizing drives now being carried on in the San Diego fish canneries, Corona citrus industry, and walnut workers and cannery workers in Los Angeles.

He pointed out that members of Local 17, Valley Poultry Workers, have been on strike at the Runnymeade Company for over seven months, and with the exception of only one deserter, their ranks are even stronger now than when they started. He believes support for this strike should come not only from the district, but from state and national CIO organizations.

Twenty Locals

For the fields, Wyman Hicks, field workers organizer, announced that District 2 has 20 functioning locals of field workers, and is in a better position this year than any other to carry forward the difficult work of organizing in California's agricultural industry. Rapid migration of the thousands of California field workers, plus hundreds of thousands more driven west by finance-farmers in the middle west, is the outstanding difficulty to be met in this branch of agriculture.

U.S. Labor Statistics report that 15,000 workers participated in UCAPAWA's strike of cotton pickers in California last Fall, but gains of actual dues-paying membership wasn't nearly that large. Organizing campaigns pushed wages of several thousand potato workers up to 35 cents an hour, and is now forcing farmers to raise wages in cotton

(Continued on page 13)

Canadian Beet Workers Report Union Progress

Due to the increase in prestige of the Union because of the wage increase, as well as the fact that it is now a recognized part of the labor movement, many Growers are coming to the office for beet labor. They know that if they ask the Union for labor, they will get good experience, Union men, and it is better for the grower and for the worker. The Grower knows he is getting a good worker, and the worker knows that the conditions for his work, as well as his wages, will be protected by the Union, with the consent of the Grower.

Because of the increase in the strength and prestige of the Union the Company is trying, through its field men, to find ways and means of breaking the influence of organized workers. For instance, they are openly fighting any attempts by beet workers to get some small concessions on their contracts with individual Growers. In Picture Butte, a number of workers claim that they could have made such a better contract. The reason for these better contracts is that the Grower knows that his beet worker will do an excellent job on his beets, and in order to keep such a good worker they are willing to give $2.50 right through on a tonnage or some other such concession. But the fieldman refuses to recognize such a contract, and there are even threats of taking away the Growers contract, or a fine or some other discrimination, if a better contract is given. Our best protection against this is to refuse to have the fieldman witness our contracts. Our contracts can be witnessed by fellow workers and not by a man who feels that the company profits are more important than a worker's well being.

Some animals can only be educated by hitting them on the snout when they stick it out too far. Workers must realize that a signed contract can be that big stick for big snouts when they come rooting into their hard earned wages. Workers must study their contracts and work according to them.

Our Union is growing, and must continue to grow very quickly in the next few months. Every local must call and hold meetings regularly to discuss local business, and especially the organizing of the unorganized in their locality. Some locals complain that they put out notices for meetings and not very many come. If that is the case then special efforts must be made to get workers to attend. There is no magic way of bringing workers together to a meeting. Most of the time it consists of hard work of personal contact, of talking individually to workers, going to their beet shacks, even of calling on workers on the way to a meeting. It means that every worker must become a volunteer organizer for the Union, and these must reach every worker in the locality.

Unless this is done, our locals will become little "sects" and beet workers will seem to be either "with us" or "against us," which would be as wise as saying that when the price of food goes up, it only goes up for the Union members and doesn't affect non-Union men. Every beet worker can become a member of the Union, and it depends on their understanding and our hard work whether they will or not.

At the present time we have some members in Raymond and a few in Magrath. In the near future we expect to set up locals in these districts. Recently we made a trip to Barnwell where we visited 21 beet workers. Out of these, two were indefinite about joining the Union while the other 19 promised to take out cards as soon as they got some money. In Jamieson, a local will be set up shortly, from the members that are there. In this way the work of organizing is proceeding. But our locals will have to roll up their sleeves and get members into their local union themselves.

In closing, let it be said that it is very easy to say that this or that is not done, and that one or another thing is not going too well, but it takes real men, and real courage and work to turn a weak point into a strong point, or build a strong local from one that is not so strong.

We feel that our Union members and beet workers have got what it takes and that this summer will see our Union as one of the finest workers organizations in Southern Alberta.

Wm. Repka, Secretary-Treasurer,
Alberta Beet Workers Union 103,
Lethridge, Alberta.

Cemetery Locals Win 4th Annual Pact Renewal

MILWAUKEE, Wis.—Some 275 cemetery workers here in Local 191 have just completed negotiations on their fourth yearly agreements with 13 Milwaukee cemeteries. Besides keeping their hard won conditions, this local, Memorial Park Workers Union, have boosted the vacation with pay from one week to two weeks for all over 10 years service, obtained assurances of longer seasons for the part time men, raised wages in many classifications and secured the union shop in more cemeteries. In addition we got the cooperation of the church cemeteries in bringing their employees under the Social Security Act.

An amendment to the Social Security Act has been introduced by Senator Walsh to include the now exempt institutions, religious, charitable and educational, and it should be supported. It is now in the finance committee of the Senate. The job is to get it out and on the floor of the Senate.

Local 191 is forming an organization committee and will go after 100 new members this summer.

UCAPAWA AUTO TAGS

CAMDEN, N. J.—Members of Cannery Local 80 are sporting attractive UCAPAWA tags on their automobiles as an aid to organization. The tags are made of the same material as regulation automobile tags, with the emblem of the Union and the name and locality of the Local easily visible.

Oother Locals who are interested in such tags and can use a minimum of 200 at 13 cents each should write John Tisa, Local 80, 201 Federal Street, Camden, N. J.

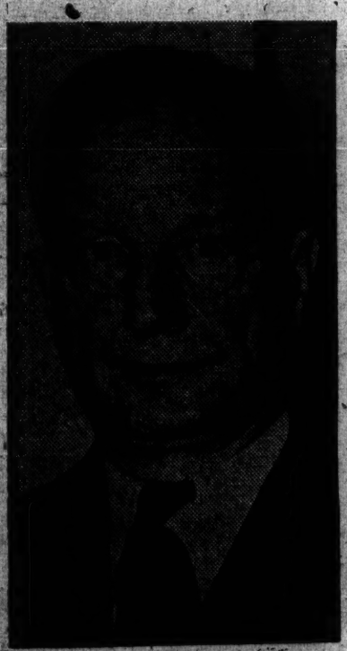
85 Workers Get Job Reinstatement

BAY CITY, Mich.—Eighty-five workers of the Beutel Canning plant who were locked out for five days because of CIO activity, have returned to work and UCAPAWA Local 68 is now entering negotiations for an agreement.

District President Harold Lane, who is handling this situation, reports that "we fully expect to sign another one of our good contracts in this plant."

As a result of the lockout, which the company admitted resulted from the organization of its employees, charges were filed with the NLRB and the Wage Hour Administration against the company. The NLRB charges will be waived if the company agrees to negotiate and sign an agreement. The Wage Hour violations however stand and the Union will press this complaint.

Brother Lane expects to install a new charter for Bay City soon, and start organizing work in other plants coming under UCAPAWA jurisdiction in the city and vicinity.



DENOUNCES WAR: Senator Burton K. Wheeler, Mont., threatens to quit Democratic Party if its leaders continue to lead U.S. to war.

CIO DEMONSTRATION Before Runneymede Farms. People standing on porch in left background are scabs protected by six foot wire fence.

Los Angeles CIO Supports Runnymede Farms Strikers

Two large caravans of CIO members from Los Angeles visited the picket line at Runneymede Farms recently in a demonstration of labor solidarity with members of UCAPAWA Local 17, who are now in their ninth month of strike.

These demonstrations, each composed of over 100 loaded cars, were so effective that the boss wouldn't let the scabs leave the preperty. Large donations of food as well as financial contributions from various Locals accompanied each caravan.

Roy Donnalley, CIO director for Southern California, Ted Rasmussen, District 2 president, Brothers Diamond from SWOC and Kerns from the Auto Workers Union addressed the strikers and scabs through the public address system.

Farms Sued

Latest development in the strike came to light when the Runneymede Farms were sued for the price of 1800 chicken by a farmer who had bought 300 diseased chickens from the struck farms which in turn infected the farmer's entire flock.

The local expects a break in the strike soon. Financial contributions and greetings from other Locals should be sent to Oliver R. Green, P.O. Box 521, Reseda, Cal.

District 2 in Drive For New Members

(Continued from page 11)

chopping to 30 cents and hour and $1.00 an acre, a considerable increase over rates set by California's vigilante Associated Farmers.

Bean Pickers

Four hundred bean pickers south of Los Angeles are now worknig under a signed contract secured by Local 29 of Santa Ana, and the local hopes to sign other contracts in the area.

Main points of the legislative program adopted by the convention were protests against anti-labor changes in the Wagner Act and Wages-Hours Act, and demand that protective legislation be extended to include all agricultural workers. A strong resolution condemned the war program being led by President Roosevelt and Administration leaders.

Immediately following the convention, District President Rasmussen went into negotiations with a walnut packing company employing 1,200 workers, and expected to sign them within a week.

UCAPAWA MARCHES for peace. Part of Local 273 contingent in N. Y. C. parade for peace.

District 7 Organizes To Keep U. S. Peace

William Robbins, educational director for District 7 has started a "chain letter for peace" among members of all locals. Each local secretary has been supplied with enough sample letters addressed to President Roosevelt to go around to all members of the local.

Each member of the local is then asked to sign the letter and mail it to the President. In addition each member is asked to write to five friends, enclosing in each letter a copy of the letter to Roosevelt and in turn asking them to send similar letters to five more friends.

"The continuation of this chain can mean PEACE for the United States," states Brother Robbins' letter, "DO NOT BREAK THE CHAIN."

The letters to Roosevelt petition him to fight for better labor laws and the protection of the common people in America and to stay out of the European war.

DISTRICT 7 BOARD MEETS

A well attended meeting of the Executive Board in District 7 was held on Sunday June 23, at the new headquarters of Local 80 in Camden, N. J.

Organizing campaigns in Biglerville, Camden, South Jersey and Philadelphia were ordered continued and the educational work of the District expanded.

THE QUIET BROTHERS

By MIKE QUINN

Aye! They were English once a time
And sipped on ales and toddies.
They are not English any more
But dead and rotting bodies.

Aye! Dead and rotting bodies, they,
in Norway's deep fjords.
Embarrassing, eh what, me lad,
To the British House of Lords?

Aye! They were Germans once a time
With Pilsner on their breath.
They are not Germans any more,
But grisly shapes of death.

Aye! Grisly shapes of death, me lad,
Washed up upon the beach,
As ghastly, bloated symbols of
The glory of the Reich.

Aye! These were French one sunny day
And dipped their bread in wine,
They are not Frenchmen any more
But corpses on the Rhine.

Just corpses on the Rhine, me lad,
No more to drink and dance.
Good business this, eh what, me lad,
For the banking men of France?

And these, me lad, Norwegians—
Or at least that was their name,
But they lie here with the others
For the dead are all the same.

DONE UP in red, white and blue, the latest match books, complete with the union label and record of U.S. losses in the last war on the inside cover, can be had in boxes of 50 for 25c by writing P.O. Box 191, Station D, New York City.

Aye! The dead are all alike, me lad,
On battle-ground or wave,
And they speak a common language
In the silence of the grave.

Don't whisper, lad, for they are dead.
The dead can never hear,
And dead men are the only ones
Whom bankers never fear.

Dig deep, me lad. Heave ho your spade,
And turn the final sod.
The British, French and German dead
Are going to their God.

"What's this?" He'll ask. "And who comes now?
"What ails ye mortals, brother?"
"They feared us all," the dead will say,
"And make us kill each other."

"Who feared you all? Who laid you out
"Beneath those wooden crosses?"
The dead will look confused, then say,
"Why they, of course, our bosses."

Dig deep, me lad, the soil will take
Their bodies in a row,
And out of these unspeaking mouths
Will grass and daisies grow.

Dig deep, me lad, the soil is kind.
Its blanketing embrace
Will hide the gruesome agony
Of every corpse's face.

Too late for these to see the light
And raise their voice high.
But mind them well, me lad, for you
Are born to live, not die.

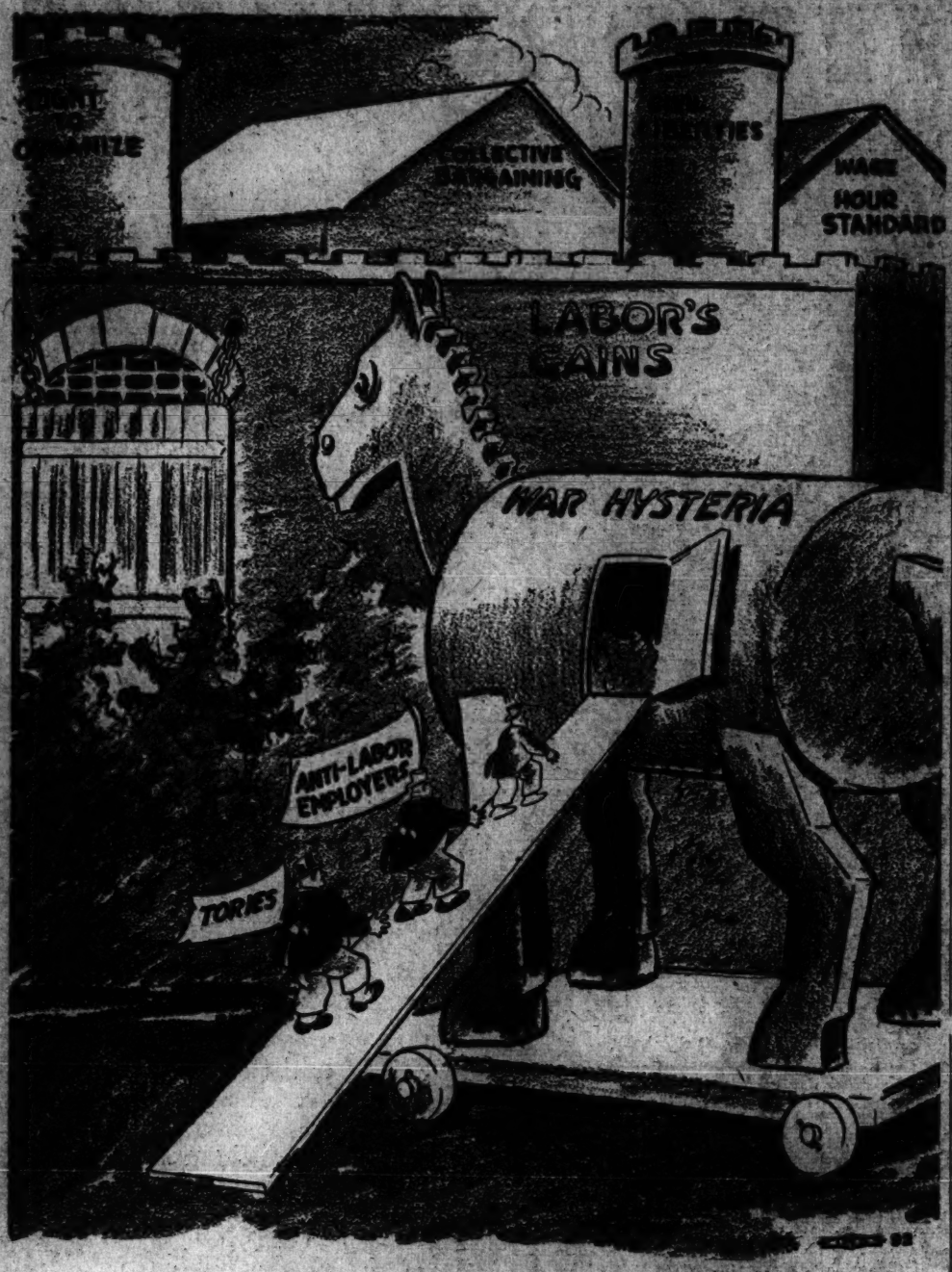
The dead in all their grisly gore,
Mixed up and all alike,
Are highly educational for
The men who still can strike.

The men who still can strike, me lad,
In every blighted land,
Lay low the profit-crazy snobs
And take the earth in hand.

The men who still can act, me lad,
To claim the world they made,
And run it right with room for all
And work for every trade.

The men who do the work, me lad,
Like strange, bewildered slaves,
Produce and build, destroy and kill
And even dig the graves.

The men who do the work, me lad,
With hand and heart and head.
They can learn a bit of wisdom
From the brotherhood of dead.



THE REAL TROJAN HORSE

2500 Attend Missouri Meet

(Continued from page 1)

that more than 900 families were directly saved from eviction this year as a result of the work of the union.

"The government has made countless surveys in our country which demonstrated the needless poverty and misery rampant among our people," Whitfield stated. "In the past the government has done some good things for us but now they seem to be shadow boxing and getting nowhere." Whitfield urged every member to pay dues as they were sorely needed to continue the union activities.

Other speakers included E. L. Hughes, of Morley, Missouri, Wm. R. Fisher of Poplar Bluff, Mrs. Whitfield, president of the Women's Auxiliaries in Missouri, and fraternal delegates from the St. Louis Urban League, American Youth Congress and United Students Peace Committee.

A huge outing and continuation of the Convention was unanimously voted to take place on July 4th and 5th at the same place, when it is expected that more than 5,000 union members will attend. UCAPAWA members from nearby states are invited.

New Locals Chartered

Local 647, United Cigar and Tobacco Workers Union,
Chartered: March 1, 1940,
Type of work: Cigar making.
Gaetano Santangelo, President,
34-37 Ninth Street,
Long Island City, New York.

Local 339, UCAPAWA,
Chartered: April 30, 1940,
Type of work: Canning and agricultural.
Newell Nielsen, Secretary,
1002 16th Street,
Ogden, Utah.

Local 338, Cannery and Preserve Workers Union,
Chartered: May 8, 1940,
Vancouver, Washington.

Local 273, Women's Auxiliary, United Cigar Workers Union,
Chartered: May 22, 1940,
New York City.

Local 342, Corona Citrus Workers Industrial Union,
Chartered: May 27, 1940,
Corona, California.

Local 343, East Liberty Farm Organization,
Chartered: May 27, 1940,
Type of work: Sharecroppers, tenant farmers and day laborers in cotton.
M. C. White,
Route 1,
Choice, Texas

Local 638, United Tobacco Workers Union,
Chartered: June 14, 1940,
Type of work: manufacturing machine-made cigars.
Miriam E. Yeager, Rec. Sec.,
240 West Liberty Street,
Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

THE PRICE OF WAR

(Continued from page 4)

A $10,000,000 university in every city of all these countries with a population over 200,000.

A $5,000,000 scientific laboratory for the same cities in all the above mentioned countries.

A life-long salary of $2,500 a year for 50,000 teachers.

A life-long salary of $2,500 for 50,000 nurses.